

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 653

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Theodore C. Sorensen.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Theodore C. Sorensen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sorensen was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a bestselling author and prominent political strategist and advisor, Theodore Sorensen served with acumen and alacrity as special counsel to President John F. Kennedy, in which position he earned much acclaim for his eloquent work on President Kennedy's famous inaugural address and public speeches; and

WHEREAS, the son of Christian A. Sorensen and Annis Chaikin, Theodore Chaikin Sorensen was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on May 8, 1928, and earned both his undergraduate and legal degrees at the University of Nebraska before seeking employment in Washington, D.C., on July 1, 1951; and

WHEREAS, after a short tenure as a junior government attorney, Mr. Sorensen obtained a position as a researcher with the new Democratic senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy, and was immediately put to work to develop a legislative program for the economic revival of New England; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sorensen collaborated with Senator Kennedy on his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, and spent the next four years working and traveling with Senator Kennedy as he pursued the Democratic nomination for president in 1960; and

WHEREAS, drawing on the Bible, the Gettysburg Address and the words of Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill, Theodore Sorensen honed and polished President Kennedy's

famous inaugural address that still resounds through the decades as it challenges Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"; and

WHEREAS, a trusted advisor to President Kennedy on every issue from election tactics to foreign policy, Mr. Sorensen was the author of the President's letter to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that ultimately resulted in a peaceful solution to the Cuban Missile Crisis; and

WHEREAS, after the assassination of President Kennedy on November 23, 1963, Sorensen took as his first task after leaving the White House to recount the history of the Kennedy administration in the best seller, *Kennedy*; and

WHEREAS, entering private legal practice, Mr. Sorensen practiced law for more than forty years, primarily as a senior partner with the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York, where he was esteemed for his experience in world affairs, and he was called on by such world leaders as Nelson Mandela and Anwar Sadat for his counsel; and

WHEREAS, remaining active in Democratic politics throughout his life, Mr. Sorensen was a much sought-after public speaker, mentor to countless young people, and the author of a number of books; and

WHEREAS, it was the great privilege of this Senate sponsor, Roy Herron, to be blessed to know Ted Sorensen and his wife Gillian, herself an extraordinary diplomat and public servant; and

WHEREAS, Theodore Sorensen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Theodore C. Sorensen, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Sorensen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such cop